CLAIMS

That which is claimed:

1.   A method, comprising:

capturing an instant messenger event by compiling event data associated with at

least one instant messenger message;

associating the instant messenger event with a conversation; and

indexing at least some of the event data associated with the instant messenger

event.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a search query; and

identifying the conversation as relevant to the search query.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the event data comprises one or more of sender

data, recipient data, a time associated with the event, a date associated with the event, and

content from the instant messenger message associated with the event.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein indexing at least some of the event data

comprises associating an event ID with the event and associating the event ID with at

least some of the event data.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the instant messenger event is captured on a client device.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the instant messenger event is captured on a network device.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein capturing an instant messenger event comprises:

identifying an activity associated with an instant messenger application on a client device;

identifying the instant messenger event; and

compiling the instant messenger event from at least some of the event data.

8.   The method of claim 7, wherein compiling the instant messenger event is performed upon the sending or receipt of the instant messenger message.

9.   The method of claim 7, wherein compiling the instant messenger event is performed after a period of time.

10.   The method of claim 9, wherein the period of time is predetermined.

11.   The method of claim 9, wherein the period of time is a period of inactivity on the instant messenger application.

12.   The method of claim 1, wherein associating the instant messenger event with a conversation comprises:

determining if an existing conversation relevant to the instant messenger event exists;

associating the instant messenger event with an existing conversation if the existing conversation is determined to be relevant to the instant messenger event; and

associating the instant messenger event with a new conversation if no existing conversation is determined to exist that is relevant to the instant messenger event.

13.   A method, comprising:

identifying instant messenger activity associated with an instant messenger application on a client device;

identifying an instant messenger event associated with an instant messenger message and having event data; and

compiling the instant messenger event from at least some of the event data.

14.   The method of claim 13, wherein identifying instant messenger activity comprises identifying instant messenger network activity

15.   The method of claim 14, wherein event data is also determined from the instant messenger network activity.

16.   The method of claim 13, wherein identifying instant messenger activity comprises identifying a user interface change associated with an instant messenger application.

17.   The method of claim 13, wherein identifying instant messenger activity comprises determining that the instant messenger application is active.

18.   The method of claim 13, wherein identifying the instant messenger event comprises monitoring the instant messenger application for an ongoing period of time.

19.   The method of claim 13, wherein identifying the instant messenger event comprises analyzing a current state of the instant messenger application to identify the instant messenger event.

20.   The method of claim 13, wherein identifying the instant messenger event comprises identifying a display area associated with the instant messenger application and determining the content of the display area.

21.   The method of claim 13, wherein identifying the instant messenger event comprises one or more of monitoring operating system calls made by the instant messenger application to display text, hooking into the instant messenger application's

notification application program interface, and directly querying the instant messenger application.

22. The method of claim 13, wherein identifying the instant messenger event comprises extracting text from a display area associated with the instant messenger application.

23.   The method of claim 13, wherein compiling the instant messenger event is performed upon the sending or receipt of an instant messenger message.

24.   The method of claim 13, wherein compiling the instant messenger event is performed after a period of time.

25.   The method of claim 13, wherein the period of time is predetermined.

26.   The method of claim 13, wherein the period of time is a period of inactivity on the instant messenger application.

27.   The method of claim 13, further comprising associating the instant messenger event with a conversation.

28.   The method of claim 13, wherein event data comprises one or more of sender

data, recipient data, a time associated with the event, a date associated with the event, and

content from the instant messenger message associated with the event.

29.   The method of claim 13, wherein event data comprises a conversation ID.

30.   The method of claim 27, wherein associating the instant messenger event with a

conversation comprises:

        determining if an existing conversation relevant to the instant messenger event

exists;

        associating the instant messenger event with an existing conversation if the

existing conversation is determined to be relevant to the instant messenger event; and

        associating the instant messenger event with a new conversation if no existing

conversation is determined to exist that is relevant to the instant messenger event.

31.   The method of claim 30, wherein determining if an existing conversation exists is

based at least in part on participants in the message and a time the message was received

or sent.

32.   The method of claim 30, further comprising determining a title associated with

the conversation.

33.   A computer-readable medium containing program code, comprising:

program code for capturing an instant messenger event by compiling event data associated with at least one instant messenger message;

program code for associating the instant messenger event with a conversation; and

program code for indexing at least some of the event data associated with the instant messenger event.

34.   The computer-readable medium of claim 33, further comprising:

program code for receiving a search query; and

program code for identifying the conversation as relevant to the search query.

35.   The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the event data comprises one or more of sender data, recipient data, a time associated with the event, a date associated with the event, and content from the instant messenger message associated with the event.

36.   The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein program code for indexing at least some of the event data comprises associating an event ID with the event and associating the event ID with at least some of the event data.

37.   The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the instant messenger event is captured on a client device.

38.   The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the instant messenger event is captured on a network device.

39.   The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein capturing an instant messenger event comprises:

program code for identifying an activity associated with an instant messenger application on a client device;

program code for identifying the instant messenger event; and

program code for compiling the instant messenger event from at least some of the event data.

40.   The computer-readable medium of claim 39, wherein compiling the instant messenger event is performed upon the sending or receipt of the instant messenger message.

41.   The computer-readable medium of claim 39, wherein compiling the instant messenger event is performed after a period of time.

42.   The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the period of time is predetermined.

43.   The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the period of time is a period of inactivity on the instant messenger application.

44.   The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein associating the instant messenger event with a conversation comprises:

program code for determining if an existing conversation relevant to the instant messenger event exists;

program code for associating the instant messenger event with an existing conversation if the existing conversation is determined to be relevant to the instant messenger event; and

program code for associating the instant messenger event with a new conversation if no existing conversation is determined to exist that is relevant to the instant messenger event.

45.   A computer-readable medium containing program code, comprising:

program code for identifying instant messenger activity associated with an instant messenger application on a client device;

program code for identifying an instant messenger event associated with an instant messenger message and having event data; and

program code for compiling the instant messenger event from at least some of the event data.

41

46.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein program code for identifying instant messenger activity comprises identifying instant messenger network activity

47.   The computer-readable medium of claim 46, wherein event data is also determined from the instant messenger network activity.

48.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein program code for identifying instant messenger activity comprises identifying a user interface change associated with an instant messenger application.

49.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein program code for identifying instant messenger activity comprises determining that the instant messenger application is active.

50.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein program code for identifying the instant messenger event comprises monitoring the instant messenger application for an ongoing period of time.

51.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein program code for identifying the instant messenger event comprises analyzing a current state of the instant messenger application to identify the instant messenger event.

52.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein program code for

identifying the instant messenger event comprises identifying a display area associated

with the instant messenger application and determining the content of the display area.

53.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein program code for

identifying the instant messenger event comprises one or more of monitoring operating

system calls made by the instant messenger application to display text, hooking into the

instant messenger application's notification application program interface, and directly

querying the instant messenger application.

54.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein program code for

identifying the instant messenger event comprises extracting text from a display area

associated with the instant messenger application.

55.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein compiling the instant

messenger event is performed upon the sending or receipt of an instant messenger

message.

56   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein compiling the instant

messenger event is performed after a period of time.

57.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the period of time is predetermined.

58.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the period of time is a period of inactivity on the instant messenger application.

59.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, further comprising program code for associating the instant messenger event with a conversation.

60.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein event data comprises one or more of sender data, recipient data, a time associated with the event, a date associated with the event, and content from the instant messenger message associated with the event.

61.   The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein event data comprises a conversation ID.

62.   The computer-readable medium of claim 59, wherein associating the instant messenger event with a conversation comprises:

        program code for determining if an existing conversation relevant to the instant messenger event exists;

program code for associating the instant messenger event with an existing conversation if the existing conversation is determined to be relevant to the instant messenger event; and

program code for associating the instant messenger event with a new conversation if no existing conversation is determined to exist that is relevant to the instant messenger event.

63.   The computer-readable medium of claim 62, wherein determining if an existing conversation exists is based at least in part on participants in the message and a time the message was received or sent.

64.   The computer-readable medium of claim 62, further comprising program code for determining a title associated with the conversation.

65.   A method, comprising:

identifying an instant messenger network packet associated with an instant messenger application on a client device;

monitoring the instant messenger application to determine event data associated with an instant messenger message;

compiling an instant messenger event from at least some of the event data;

determining if an existing conversation relevant to the instant messenger event exists;

45

associating the instant messenger event with an existing conversation if the

existing conversation is determined to be relevant to the instant messenger event; and

associating the instant messenger event with a new conversation if no existing

conversation is determined to exist that is relevant to the instant messenger event; and

indexing and storing the instant messenger event.